

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Schweinrich Training Area

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

28 July 1953

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 17 June 1953, columns passing through Wittstock, coming from Schweinrich and proceeding toward Pritzwalk included:
a column of 35 trucks, each occupied by 15 soldiers wearing steel helmets

two columns of 15 and 23 trucks, some loaded with ammunition boxes and others with troops with baggage,
a column of 20 tank trucks
Numerous individual trucks

were identified, in addition to the columns.

On 18 June, a column of 20 trucks occupied by troops and including / 7-39-74;
and 5 tank trucks was seen proceeding in the same direction.

On 24 June, 50 trucks occupied by troops and 15 tank trucks were seen en route from Pritzwalk toward Schweinrich. At about 12:30 p.m. on 27 June, a troop train of 21 railroad cars carrying 1 truck and 20 T-34 tanks was seen en route from the direction of Pritzwalk toward Wittstock; and at about 3 p.m., on 28 June, a shipment of 30 T-34 tanks was seen en route from the Wittstock railroad station toward Schweinrich. On 6 July, 4 trucks and 5 T-34 tanks, were seen leaving Dranse toward Wittstock

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2. On 30 June and 1 July, a major exercise, involving tanks, artillery and air force, was held in the Centzrode area as far as Zechlin. The firing direction was south-north, and the training area was sealed off.
3. A bill prepared for the Soviet Army komendatura in Wittstock on the Dosse River, dated 4 April 1953, indicating the consumption of current at seven apartments at 7 and 14 Roebelerstrasse and Walter-Schulz Platz and marked with a stamp in the Russian language stating that the 1254 kilowatt hours of current were consumed by military quarters No 71459 in March 1953, was obtained.

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1. Comment. [redacted] the troops of the 18th Mecz Div, which left the Wittstock troop training grounds, probably were employed in security missions in Perleberg. The units employed there also included T-34 tanks of the 58th Mecz Regt of the division which, prior to 27 June, left Perleberg, along with the units employed there. [redacted] The tanks on the trains probably were the abovementioned tanks, which returned to the training grounds. The exercise, which was held in the enlarged training area on 30 June and 1 July, probably involved units of the division.

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